

Project Will Upgrade Curbs and Sidewalks throughout Broome County, Create Local Jobs

Johnson City, NY- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today joined state and local officials to announce construction of a new project, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 that Hinchey helped pass into law earlier this year, which will bring sidewalks and curbs along state highways throughout Broome County into compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The project, which will cost \$405,781, will create 6-12 local jobs and is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

"I am very pleased to see that the work we did in passing the economic recovery act in Congress is being translated into improved pedestrian access throughout Broome County for people with disabilities," Hinchey stated. "This project is a prime example of federal stimulus funds being put to work now to improve long-standing infrastructure needs while at the same time creating local construction jobs that will contribute to the area's overall economy."

The House of Representatives passed the ARRA on February 13, 2009 by a vote of 246 - 183 and the President signed the Act into law four days later. New York State has received \$1.1 billion in ARRA funds for highway and bridge projects. Southern Tier communities are expected to receive a total investment of \$53.6 million from these funds. The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is in the process of certifying these additional funds.

Hinchey was joined today by NYSDOT Regional Director Jack Williams, Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, town of Union Supervisor John Bernardo and Johnson City Acting Mayor Dennis Hannon.